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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Comoros

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies by the State party under review

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

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Introduction

1. During the 2014 universal periodic review, the Comorian Delegation decided to defer a decision on the acceptance or rejection of 13 recommendations in preparation for the 2018 universal periodic review in order to seek the views of the Government. At the twenty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council next June, the Union of the Comoros will have to confirm its definitive stance on these 13 recommendations.

2. The Government of the Union of the Comoros, committed to its strategy for the effective integration of human rights into all public policies and concerned about preserving the dignity and integrity of the human person, greatly appreciated the work of the twenty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council and noted with satisfaction and encouragement the performance of its delegation. It expresses its gratitude to all the structures and bodies of the universal periodic review and the United Nations human rights system.

3. It is aware of the efforts made by many friends of the Union of the Comoros to ensure the success of the universal periodic review process.

4. The Government confirms the decisions made by its delegation, specifically the acceptance of 113 and rejection of 8 recommendations.

5. It therefore reaffirms that at the close of the 2014 universal periodic review, the Union of the Comoros accepted a total of 125 recommendations and rejected 9.

6. Thus, of the 13 recommendations deferred, 12 were accepted and 1 was rejected.

7. The Government asks partners to be understanding and to support the Union of the Comoros in the implementation of the recommendations accepted, with a view to the greater observance, protection and enjoyment of human rights.

8. The political will demonstrated by the Comorian Government with regard to human rights must be supported by strong partnerships in all social strata and sectors.

9. At the twenty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council, the delegation of the Comoros will have the mandate, inter alia, to continue to advocate for effective support in order to improve human rights infrastructure and capacities.

10. The following paragraph provides further details of the Comorian Government's decision on the 13 recommendations deferred during the universal periodic review of 2014.

I. Recommendations accepted

Of the 13 recommendations deferred, the 12 that were accepted are as follows:

Ratify or accede to international human rights instruments, to which the Comoros is not yet party (Togo);

Continue adopting a positive perspective towards the accession to international human rights treaties that the Comoros has not yet acceded to (Egypt);

Explanation

11. In keeping with the tolerance that characterizes our country, the Union of the Comoros is considering the possibility of acceding to certain treaties to which our country is not party. The development of Comorian society could, in the long term, facilitate accession to certain treaties. However, we maintain our position of principle regarding the right to refuse accession to certain treaties which would conflict with Comorian religious beliefs and national unity.

Carry out a revision of the various legal systems in use, Islamic, civil and customary, to ensure that its treatment of women is uniform and in line with provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Mexico);

Explanation

12. Efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women are part of the Government's ongoing and regular activities. The country has signed various treaties to this end. At the national level measures are being taken to achieve gender equity and the participation of women in decision-making. Consideration is being given to harmonizing the legal systems that have resulted from developments in Comorian society. It should be noted that current legislation and common law favour tolerance, equity and equality.

Adopt the legislation explicitly prohibiting the corporal punishment of children in all settings, including home (Slovenia);

Explanation

13. The new criminal code currently being adopted contains provisions to criminalize corporal punishment.

Prohibit, by law, all forms of violence against children, including corporal punishment, as well as establish a minimum legal age for marriage (Portugal);

Continue with measures aimed at ensuring that all births of children are registered, particularly by reviewing the legislation to ensure that all children born in the territory can acquire the nationality, and avoid cases of statelessness (Argentina);

Undertake a thorough assessment of the issue of trafficking in persons and take adequate measures, including enactment of adequate legislation to combat the practice as recommended by the UNHCR (Botswana);

Strengthen the institutional framework for the protection of children's rights by setting up welcome centres and socio-professional training (Senegal);

Take the necessary measures to prohibit the use of corporal punishment against children (France);

Ratify the international human rights treaties, to which it is not yet party, and cooperate with OHCHR, treaty bodies and Special Procedures (Chad);

Review the judicial system in order to ensure that the provisions of civil law, Islamic law and customary law conform to the provisions of CEDAW (Canada);

Continue its efforts to promote religious freedom, and continue to broaden the space for interfaith dialogue (Ghana).

II. Recommendations rejected

Take measures to ensure the respect of freedom of religion and to end all types of reprisals against those who converted from Islam (Mexico).

Conclusion

14. Of the 13 recommendations deferred when adopting the report on the universal periodic review on 4 February 2014, in order to seek the views of the Government, those

accepted should be added to the list of the 113 recommendations that will provide the framework for the 2018 universal periodic review.

15. The Union of the Comoros is expected to provide definitive confirmation of these recommendations at the twenty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council in June 2014 in Geneva.

16. The Comorian Government therefore requests further support from the international community in facilitating the adoption of all appropriate measures in order to ensure better implementation of the recommendations from the second universal periodic review cycle and the smooth preparation of the 2018 report. This should enable the country to maintain the better situation in the area of the protection, observance and enjoyment of human rights that it achieved this year.

17. This, situation, much sought after by all countries, will help to enhance the State's image and to gain the favour of development partners.